AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7 (canceled).

8. (New) A protection device for a passenger in a vehicle, comprising:

an airbag;

a gas generator for filling the airbag;

an airbag control device for activating the airbag;

a measurement unit for acquiring a deployment speed of the airbag;

a connecting module for regulating a filling quantity of the airbag, taking into account the deployment speed of the airbag, wherein the connecting module includes a flow-off valve situated between the gas generator and the airbag; and

a controlled actuating unit for selectively sealing the flow-off valve.

9. (New) The protection device as recited in Claim 8, wherein the controlled actuating unit for selectively sealing the flow-off valve is controlled by the airbag control device.

10. (New) The protection device as recited in Claim 8, wherein the controlled actuating unit for selectively sealing the flow-off valve includes at least one piezo-actuator connected to one of a mechanical lever device and a hydraulic lever device.

11. (New) The protection device as recited in Claim 8, wherein the controlled actuating unit for selectively sealing the flow-off valve includes at least one electromagnet.

12. (New) The protection device as recited in Claim 8, wherein the gas generator for filling the airbag is a cold-gas generator having a pressure vessel filled with a noble gas mixture under pressure, wherein the pressure vessel is sealed by a burst disk that is configured to be destroyed with the aid of a pyrotechnic charge.

13. (New) The protection device as recited in Claim 8, wherein the measurement unit for acquiring the deployment speed of the airbag includes a transceiver device for sending an optical signal into the airbag, and wherein at least a portion of the inside of the airbag is provided with a light-reflecting coating.

14. (New) The protection device as recited in Claim 13, wherein the deployment speed of the airbag is determined by one of: a) measuring a propagation time of the optical signal; b) utilizing the Doppler effect with respect to the optical signal; and c) utilizing a triangulation method with respect to the optical signal.